

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested. Claims 16, 17, and 23 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 16-17 have been amended and claims 24-26 have been added as new claims.

The Claims:

Claims 16-17 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Grasseschi (United States Patent No. 4,706,702). The Office Action states that the plurality of fixtures are readable on the faucet spout 16 and the shower arm is readable on the non-referenced element between elements 12 and 13. The Office Action further states that each waterway leads from elements 15 and 20 into the faucet fixture and the shower arm fixture and that it is inherent that each fixture has a visible and non-visible portions.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite, in pertinent part, that the support includes a means for tightening or loosening the support, wherein the means for tightening or loosening the support is located on the visible surface.

Grasseschi does not teach or disclose a means for tightening or loosening the support to the one or more water supply lines. Grasseschi's support member is a plumbing pipe (15) that is projecting through an aperture (14) in the wall. Grasseschi's support does not move and thus does not include a means for tightening or loosening. Since Grasseschi does not teach or disclose each element of amended Claim 16, Grasseschi cannot anticipate amended Claim 16. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 25:

Claim 25 has been entered as a new claim. Claim 25 recites, in pertinent part, that the waterway opens into a water passageway in the functional and decorative element and the waterway forms a circumferential seal between an outer side wall of the waterway and a portion of the functional and decorative element. As shown in Figure 3 of Grasseschi, the waterway forms an end seal with the spout (16). The end seal that is formed is only as good as the tightness between the spout and the waterway. Grasseschi does not teach or disclose a

circumferential seal between the outer side wall of the waterway and a portion of the functional and decorative element. The design of the present invention allows for a water-tight seal regardless of the tightness between the functional and decorative element and the waterway. As such, Claim 25 is considered patentable over the cited prior art.

Dependent Claims:

Applicant submits that the dependent claims are patentable because they at least incorporate the same limitations as their respective independent claims. Furthermore, Claim 17, as amended, is considered allowable on its own merits because it recites a sink faucet. Grasseschi does not teach or disclose a sink faucet. Claim 24 is considered allowable on its own merits because it recites a hexagonal-shaped surface on said support. None of the cited references teach or disclose this element.

The Subsidiary References:

The other references cited as well as those cited and not relied upon have been studied but are not deemed to be as relevant as the references mentioned above.

Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant believes that all of the claims in this case are now in condition for allowance and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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